



## THE NATIONAL SEND FORUM Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Present:** David Bateson OBE (DB) *Chair, FLSE*, Rona Tutt OBE (RT) *NAHT*, Caroline Wright (CW) *RCSLT*, Carol Kelsey (CK) *NNPCF*, Julie Walker (JW) *sen.se*, Tina Wakefield (TW) *BATOD/NATSIP*, Rob Williams (RW) *NAHT*, Stephen Deadman (SD) *NAHE*, Michelle Haywood (MH) *WMSEND*, Carolyn Morgan (CM) *FLSE*, Malcolm Reeve (MR) *WSS*, Penny Barratt (PB) *SSV*, Annamarie Hassall (AH) *nasen*, Richard Boyle (RB) *engage*, Brendan Heneghan (BH) *engage*, Catriona Moore (CM) *ipsea*, Di Caesar (DC) *pdnet*

**Guests:** Ollie Myers (OM) Times Education Commission

**Minutes:** David Bateson (DB)

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

**For Action**

DB welcomed and thanked everyone for joining this virtual meeting.

He asked both Ollie Myers and Annamarie to introduce themselves. Ollie prefaced the latest discussion about the wide-ranging work of the Times Education Commission and DB urged members to contribute, having shared his disappointment that the august body that the commission is did not seem to have a high-profile person from the world of SEND on it.

Annamarie, not currently in post as the new CEO of nasen, welcomed the opportunity to attend. DB mentioned that he and AH share trusteeships at the Shaw Education Trust.

#### 2. Protocol for meeting

DB went through some protocols for this virtual meeting

#### 3. Apologies

NGA, NASS, NAS, PRUsAP, SWALSS, NHS, Lorraine Mulrone (NHS), Lorraine and Andy Petersen (LP,AP)

#### 4. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed with minor alterations i.e. correct acronym for SWALSS; Swindon to be added to the SW focus of the RCE work; principals/principles correction

#### 5. Policy and DfE update

No comments

## 6. Update: Regional Centres of Expertise NSEND Research Update (MR)

MR reported that the WG was to focus on 4 neighbouring LAs in SW. MR has produced a spreadsheet and presentation of all resourced specialist provisions and the nature and numbers of SEND within, both EHCPs and on support.

DB added a little bit of context about the funding for this research.

JW commented about the next steps of engaging LAs but her network is keen.

**Mtg of  
WG in  
next 2  
weeks**

## 7. Identification of SEND, national update (MR)

MR ran through his very full extrapolation of the latest DfE data (ppt attached with these minutes).

DB thanked MR for the presentation and they both commented on how taking the data out is much harder than before. DB, after commenting that there had been an increase of more than 50% in SS places in the last 13 years and posed the question about the influence of referrals on the primary and secondary breakdown of needs at the end of primary schools. He then invited comments.

CK said it would be helpful to know how many children are not on roll and what their needs might be. Also, CK said that the lack of co-morbidity information and lack of advice about how to categorise needs.

MR agreed and said he would move on to that and both he and DB referenced the report at the last meeting of the biggest issue in identification is the school itself.

DC queried what SEND fall into the 'other' category.

CW asked whether the data helped with provision. MR added comments about how the data at least afforded comparative data for schools to ask themselves questions. DB picked up on CW's point to say it's the 'what if' and the impact on curriculum that matters as well as the distinguishing between under-achievement and those with an intellectual inhibition to learning.

DB responded to a question in the chatbox about funding and that a professor in the paper had queried the usefulness of autism as a diagnosis if so many were being identified and some provisions identify as many as 8 'types' of autism.

**DB to  
circulate**

## 8. Thought Leadership: The Identification of SEND (MR)

MR went through the latest iteration of the paper which will come out for comment to be finalised at the next meeting for sending to nasen for their formatting.

DB thanked MR for all his work this morning. He also, for AH's benefit, said that as nasen and FLSE underwrite the shortfall in subscriptions for the Forum, that it was also useful to know that the Thought Leadership papers go to nasen.

**DB to  
circulate**

RT commented on 1 in 8 children are disabled (ref Disabilities strategy) and 50% of those have SEND but queried what we knew about this and the difference it made in provisions. DB referenced children he'd worked with whose disabilities delayed their attainment but did not in itself give them an additional SEN and also mentioned universal provisions e.g. oracy which might make the biggest difference of all.

9.

**Information items:**

a) RCSLT 'Building Back Better'

CW commented that the govt response does not indicate anything additional being provided. There are about 14,000 signatures so far but would like to reach 100,000.

**Members  
Send DB  
Qs for LM**

b) Lorraine Mulroney (National Specialist Advisor –SEND) is attending the December meeting. Some questions in advance may be most efficient.

c) Mark Blois will present on Liberty Protection Safeguards as soon as the information is available

10.

**The Times Education Commission (Ollie Myers [oliver.myers@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:oliver.myers@thetimes.co.uk))**

DB introduced OM and urged members to provide information to the Times Education Commission.

OM – SEND sessions next February for oral submissions. He asked initially what should the Commission be looking at in respect of SEND.

CK asked how parent and child views would be taken in to consideration, making the point that many children can't access surveys or the surveys do not ask what their experience of their SEND is.

CK asked what outcomes do we value and expect and DB echoed that, adding some context about unemployment and imprisonment.

RT too asked whether we are clear what education is for and what outcomes we expect and the difference between under-achievement and long term need. RT also highlighted wellbeing/mental health and exclusions/SEND. RT also questioned on the website what items are the Times newspaper and what are the Commission. OM said most of those were from their Education Editor.

DB and MR mentioned some big strategic themes e.g. SEND is not a homogeneous term, which would be sent to OM, not least the widespread ignorance and distance between some policy makers and some of the children we serve.

MR, in talking about ignorance in the system, referred back to his recommendations regarding training for leaders and providers at all levels.

RB said that there is no system and education might be better to look at what the Greeks believed i.e. to live well and how individuals can become nice people.

DB said we have the most atomised 'system' in the world and that the Commission, not least Anthony Seldon, would appreciate the connectivity.

CK said SEND is everybody's business because children with SEND appear in every aspect of education.

DB mentioned the old idea of 'good practice in SEND is often good practice for all'.

**Members  
Send OM  
informati  
on**

AH urged OM to look at 0-25, highlighting that post 16 is often too skills focussed when those with SEND are still continuing their education pathway.

DC agreed that there isn't a SEND system. Pdnet and NATSIP provide many materials and training for the 5.9% with physical and sensory needs but there is no central financial support. DC believes a proper platform for SEND/DfE/government is needed.

DB summed up, offering the Forum for written and oral submissions. He underlined how marginalised SEND has been nationally over time and his initial sadness when looking at the complexion of the Commission and that we hope we can rectify that.

11. OM reassured the Forum that SEND would be across all the strands.

## Updates

### BATOD/NATSIP

- BATOD 's 8-part webinar series replacing the postponed 2020 conference continues. The October event is themed 'Teaching and Learning' - <https://www.batod.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/BATOD-webinar-series-September-2021-March-2022-summary-.pdf>
- Examination Access Arrangement for deaf learners - in partnership with SSC (Scottish Sensory Centre). Webinar on 21, recording available soon for purchase
- Partner with DCAL's research 'Skilled reading in deaf school leavers'
- Partner with University of Roehampton - research into impact of Covid on learners who are deaf
- Engaging with research - Both EARS training package, BEARS, is a project funded by the NIHR with the aim to improve spatial hearing, speech in noise perception and ease of listening for children, teenagers and young adults using bilateral CIs through a number of VR-based training games.
- NatSIP partners are engaged in recruiting and training qualified specialist teachers into the SI sector. We are awaiting the publication of new MQ standards by DfE and are also pursuing, through an employer led NatSIP Trailblazer Group, validation through the Institute for Apprenticeships for a qualification, at Masters level (MQ equivalent), for QTSIs.
- To continue to address the needs of the non specialist workforce NatSIP was asked by a special school to produce a checklist for good practice in SI. 'What Good Looks Like ' in SI was published on the NatSIP website in September. <https://www.natsip.org.uk/doc-library-login/natsip-briefing-documents-and-papers/what-good-looks-like-observational-schedule>

### NAHE

- Units United conference, aimed at teachers in CAMHS units, is taking place in Birmingham on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October

- 8% uplift for hospital education again features in provisional HNB allocations for 2022-23. We expect to see variation of how much individual LAs actually pass on
- NAHE intend to hold a virtual conference this year, hopefully in the spring term
- Engagement in subject network groups increasing (move to virtual meetings probably helps attendance and regularity)
- Most hospital provisions continue to operate in person, although majority of teaching 1:1 by the bedside. Any classroom spaces in hospital are limited to 1 or 2 children at once
- Mental health referrals increasing, including for many Y7/8 pupils who missed that key transition from primary to secondary during the pandemic



### **13. Dates**

**2021-22 29<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> July  
(Physical meetings at Browne Jacobson in London unless otherwise confirmed).**

**14. Venue 2021-22: Courtesy of Browne Jacobson, 15th Floor, 6 Bevis Marks, Bury Court, London EC3A 7BA**

Meeting Closed at 11.55am